

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

A SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

LIBRARY

SERIAL RECORD

APR 12 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Reports summarized this week deal with Food Fights for Freedom program; farm labor; and wartime activities of home economics extension and 4-H Club workers.

...- V ...-

...- V ...-

NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 9, 1944

Food Fights for Freedom.- County agricultural agents and agricultural subject-matter specialists have just completed schedule of approximately 130 town meetings in 1944 food-production campaign. Chairmen of meetings usually were local farmers who attended county training meetings arranged jointly by Extension and AAA. Series of charts graphically outlining production needed and ways to arrive at production goals was used by agent or specialist at each meeting. Brief circular, New Hampshire Food Fights for Freedom, outlining situation, was prepared and distributed to farmers, and printed cards were used for sign-ups on important dairy, poultry, and potato projects. At these meetings farmers were also asked to indicate probable labor requirements for season ahead.

Agricultural subject-matter meetings are now being held. Many of these were requested by farmers at more general meetings.

Farm labor.- Farm labor personnel has placed emphasis on checking with deferred men on their units and on possibility of increasing food and timber production. Plans are under way for intensive enrollment campaigns to meet needs for farm labor.

Home demonstration program.- Foods and nutrition work has included especial promotion of eggs, potatoes, and cabbage, all plentiful in State this month; demonstrations and publicity by specialists and all agents on use of soy products as low-cost, point-free sources of protein and fat; leader-training schools on improving home-packed lunches. Plans are under way for Victory Garden program and State-wide training school for food-preservation teachers.

Conservation is keynote of all clothing work. Excellent classes have been held, but some were so well attended as to be too large for satisfactory instruction.

Family financial planning meetings have been popular. Attendance was encouraged by both income tax and fourth war loan drive.

4-H Club activities.-- Emphasis in 4-H program is being put upon food production and conservation. Usual agricultural projects are being continued and new health, home-management, and safety work added. Winter program has emphasized clothing construction and remodeling, and poultry management. Dairying and health are receiving special attention during March and April. Gardening will become dominant project in May, June, July, and canning during July, August, and September.

Gardening program includes plans for 100 demonstration 4-H gardens in State. Special seed collections have been arranged for 4-H members. Outline for team demonstration on topic, Planting a Victory Garden, is being used. New, simplified 4-H garden record book has been planned.

4-H Mobilization Week is being used to give publicity and new emphasis to 4-H program. Concentrated membership drive will be made in April.

OREGON
February 1, 1944

Food Fights for Freedom.-- Preliminary educational work has been done to set up food-production program in counties. In each county, meeting was held to present and discuss Nation's food needs and plans for meeting them. Program at each meeting was substantially as follows:

1. Opening of meeting and statement of purpose--county AAA chairman.
2. State and national aspects of 1944 food program--State extension representative.
3. 1944 food needs--State AAA representative.
4. Report on adjustments in agriculture of county in line with national needs and 1943 production accomplishments--county agent.
5. Factors affecting production, including AAA practices--State AAA representative.
6. County educational program for 1944--county agent.

Meetings were also attended by AAA committeemen, county War Board members, members of county agricultural planning committees and subcommittees, and representatives of all organized farm groups.

Farm labor.-- County agents have ended first year of active official designation as farm labor recruitment agents. At close of year, 176,034 placements had been made through U. S. Employment Service, as compared with 97,000 in 1942.

During 1943 season 65,000 Oregon youth under 18 years of age worked in crops between May 1 and November 30, according to USES figures. Youngsters of school age made substantial contribution to harvesting State's crops, which suffered no more than normal loss. Experiences gained in organization and handling of school-age

labor under platoon system pointed to greatly increased effectiveness in 1944. Value of work of young people is indicated in Lane County where 5,795 youngsters in school in October had worked in agriculture during summer. About 40 percent had worked 25 days or more. About half were boys and half girls. They had given more than 103,000 days' time and picked approximately 6 million pounds of beans; 3 million pounds of prunes; 8 million pounds of cherries; $\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds of hops; and $\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds of filberts and walnuts.

In Coos County, when it appeared cranberry harvest could not be completed, four platoons of high-school youth were organized, and arrangements were made for their platoon members to be granted leave from school on alternate days. They picked 175 barrels of berries and saved crop.

In city of Salem, survey of all communities showed 1,100 women willing to work in crop harvest. Four times that many did work. Fourteen platoons were organized and worked through season with about 500 children, who earned around \$65,000. The crops they harvested brought growers about \$165,000. It is estimated at least 10 percent more women will be needed to harvest 1944 crops. Arrangements will have to be made for carrying on work, caring for children, and keeping need for women helpers before public.

Farm labor conference of representatives of Portland school system, growers, platoon leaders, USES, and Extension Service, was held in Portland. General sentiment of conference was favorable to use of youth platoons during 1944. Definite plans are being made for their early organization.

As assistance to secondary-school teachers who will give farm labor orientation courses to children this spring, teaching outlines are being made on major crops that children worked in during 1943, such as beans, strawberries, and canning fruits. Outline for beans is made for use with film strip and motion picture on bean picking.

Steps have been taken to recruit women for dairy work in Coos and Tillamook Counties. Arrangements were made for training class at college to prepare women for certain tasks in connection with dairy production.

Home economics war activities.- Home economics extension workers are giving much time to emergency war work. Columbia and Yamhill Counties held canteen classes for Red Cross, some taught by home demonstration agents. In four counties home demonstration agents cooperated with Red Cross through disaster committees and sewing rooms. Ten county home demonstration agents were active in nutrition work as members of county nutrition councils or committees. Union County committee, with home demonstration agent as chairman, has sponsored school lunch program, organized Red Cross nutrition classes and authorized teachers, organized speakers' bureau, and scheduled meetings on nutrition with various organizations.

Klamath County nutrition committee, headed by home demonstration agent, is one of strongest in State. In Food-for-Freedom Campaign, this committee has planned special features for radio and newspapers; exhibits in stores in Klamath Falls and throughout county; showings of film, Guide to Good Eating, throughout county; and special demonstrations on use of milk, eggs, and cheese, and vegetable cookery. Other war work of home demonstration agents includes assistance in war bond and stamp drives, blood donor banks, pressure-cooker rationing committees, WAC recruiting, consumer education committees of OPA, rural service committees of OCD, infantile paralysis campaigns, courses for war brides and young mothers among war workers, and school lunch programs.

